

PSCI 3307 A  
The Politics of Human Rights  
Tuesdays 2:35 – 5:25  
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. KC Fitzpatrick  
Office Loeb D646  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1 – 2 pm  
Email: [kfitzpat@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:kfitzpat@connect.carleton.ca)

**Course Content:** This course will introduce students to key themes in the politics and practice of human rights from a global to a local perspective. It will examine the history and theoretical foundations of human rights discourse and explore the different approaches to human rights within international law and international relations, including a critical evaluation of leading human rights institutions, agencies and non-governmental organizations. The class will also explore specific topics in human rights theory and practice organized into the main sub-fields of civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights fields and include an additional investigation into the challenges facing human rights politics and practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Students will be encouraged to follow their own interests through an emphasis on independent study and will be expected to take the lead in determining the scope and content of their own research assignments.

Students will be encouraged to develop their own critical and analytical skills as they participate in class lectures, discussions and debates, develop individual research topics and projects and pursue independent study beyond the required text in preparation for the final exam.

**Required Text:** Michael Goodhart, (ed.) Human Rights: Politics and Practice (Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press), 2009, JC 571.H7697

\*\* Associated Web-site for Online Research Resources  
<http://www.oxfordtextbooks.co.uk/orc/goodhart>

**Supplemental Text:** Timothy Dunne and Nicholas Wheeler (eds.), Human Rights in Global Politics, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) 1999 JC 571. H769524

**Supplemental Text:** , William F. Felice, The Global New Deal: Economic and Social Rights in World Politics (Plymouth: Rowan and Littlefield) 2010 JC 571. F424 2010

**Reference Text:** Henry J. Steiner and Philip Alston, International Human Rights in Context: Law, Politics and Morality 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press) 2007 K3240.S74

### **Course Grading Structure:**

25% Class Participation and Journal Exercise

25% Practical Engagement Project

25% Independent Research Paper

25% Final Exam

### **Course Component Instructions and Due Dates:**

**1. Class Participation and Journal Exercise:** Students will be expected to attend all lectures and engage in structure activities such as class discussions and debates as well as critical engagement with the instructor and invited guest lecturers. The Journal Exercise will require the student to write **2 – 3 page critical reflection on six (6)** of their choice of class topics including a critical analysis of the lecture, class discussion and assigned readings, both required and supplemental. **The first three Journal entries will be due at the end of Class 6: Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> 2012. The last three Journal entries will be due at the end of Class 12: Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

**2. Practical Engagement Project:** Students will be required to write a brief **(5 – 6) page evaluation and assessment** of a chosen Government Agency, United Nations Program or Non-Governmental Organization working in the field of human rights. Research can include, but will not be limited to the following: a relevant literature review, on-line and web-site investigation of the program/agency site, mainstream journalism and media reports and/or interviews with program/agency staff or other interested parties. **Project Report will be due at the end of Class 9: November 6, 2012.**

**3. Independent Research Paper:** The Research Paper must be **10 - 12 pages in length** and is intended to develop independent research and analytical skill to a university standard. **Research topics will be fairly open, but must be broadly chosen from the themes and subjects identified in the Course Outline.** The structure and scope of the paper remain the responsibility of the student, but must include an identifiable thesis statement, clearly defined terms and concepts, at least 3 distinct supporting arguments, a consideration of counter-arguments opposed to

the paper's central premise and a well thought out conclusion. **The Independent Research Paper is due at the end of Class 11, Tuesday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

**4. The Final Exam** will include sections on concept identification and analysis, short answer questions and a choice of essay questions. The final exam will be formally scheduled by examination services at the end of the fall term.

**All assignments must be submitted in class on the specified date. Late assignments must be submitted via the Political Science Department drop-box to be date stamped. Assignments must be handed in on time and extensions will only be granted for documented medical reasons. Late penalties will be at a rate of one-third a letter grade per day late. Late assignments will not be accepted after Friday December 7<sup>th</sup> and a failure to hand in required course work will automatically result in a grade of zero for the assignment.**

### **Class Schedule and Required Readings:**

#### **Class 1: Sept 11 - Course Introduction and Thematic Overview**

Required Reading: Michael Goodhart Introduction: Human Rights in politics and practice, pp. 1 - 8

Supplemental Reading: Explore materials on the Online Research Web-site  
<http://www.oxfordtextbooks.co.uk/orc/goodhart>

#### **Class 2: Sept. 18; – Understanding Human Rights Discourse: Theoretical and Historical Foundations:**

Required Reading: Anthony Langlis “Normative and Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights”, in Goodhart, pp. 12 - 24

Supplemental Readings: Jack Donnelly, “ The Social Construction of Human Rights” in Dunne and Wheeler, pp. 71 - 102

#### **Class 3: Sept. 25 – Legal Regimes and Human Rights: State Sovereignty and Cosmopolitan Ideals**

Required Reading: Rhona K.M. Smith “Human Rights in International Law” in Goodhart, pp. 26 - 45

Supplemental Reading: Chris Brown: “Universal Human Rights a Critique” in Dunne and Wheeler, pp. 103 - 127

#### **Class: 4 Oct. 2 – International Relations and Human Rights: The World Politics of Hegemony and Diversity**

Required Reading: Tim Dunne and Marianne Hanson “Human Rights in International Relations” in Goodhart

Supplemental Readings: Bhikhu Parekh, “ Non-Ethnocentric Human Rights in Dunne and Wheeler, pp. 128 - 159

**Class 5: Oct. 9 – Civil and Political Rights: Liberalism and the Democratic ideal**

Required Reading: Christian Davenport, Political Democracy and State Oppression, in Goodhart pp, 129 - 146

Supplemental Reading: Allison J. Ayers “We all Know a Democracy When We See One: “Neo-liberal Orthodoxy in the Democratization and “Good Governance Project” Policy and Society, (Sept. 2008) Vol. 27, No. 1 pps. 1 – 13”

**Class: 6: Oct. 16 – Transnational Civil Society: NGOs and Human Rights Activism**

Required Reading: Marlies Glasius, “Global Civil Society and Human Rights” in Goodhart, pp. 147 - 163

Supplemental Reading: Mary Kaldor, “Transnational Civil Society” in Dunne and Wheeler, 195 - 213

**Class: 7: Oct 23 – Social and Economic Rights: Basic Needs and Development**

Required Reading: Sakiko Fukuda, “Human Rights and Politics in Development, in Goodhart pp. 164 – 179

Supplemental Reading: William F. Felice, The Global New Deal, Ch. 3, The United Nations and Economic and Social Rights, pp. 73 - 123

**Class 8: October 30 – International Political Economy and Global Social Justice**

Required Readings: David Richards and Donald D. Gelleny, in Goodhart “Economic Globalization” pp. 182 – 199

Supplemental Reading: William F. Felice, The Global New Deal, Ch. 2 “International Political Economy and Economic and Social Rights” pp. 27 - 72

**Class 9: Nov. 6 - Still On the Margins: Women’s Rights and the Struggle for Gender Equality**

Required Reading: Arvonne S. Frazer “Becoming Human: The origins and Development of Women’s Human Rights” in Majorie Agosin (ed.,) Women, Gender and Human Rights: A Global Perspective (Picataway, NJ Rutgers University Press) 2001 HQ 1236 W6379

Supplemental Reading: Dana Collins and Sylvanna Falcon “New Directions in Feminism and Human Rights” International Feminist Journal of Politics, (Dec. 2010) vol. 12, No. 3 -4 pp. 298 – 318

**Class 10: Nov. 13 - Decolonization, Minority Rights and Racial Discrimination: Towards a Politics of Inclusion**

Required Reading: Sandra Freedman, "Combating Racism With Human Rights" in Sandra Fredman (ed.) *Discrimination and Human Rights*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press) 2001 K3242. D57

Supplemental: Kevin Boyle: "A Critical Evaluation of International Human Rights Approaches to Racism", in Fredman (ed.)

**Class 11: Nov. 20 - The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Canadian Experience**

Required Reading: The UN Declaration on Indigenous Peoples and S. James Anaya, "International Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples: Towards a Multiethnic State" *Arizona Journal of International and Comparative Law*, Vol. 21, No. 1, 2004.

Supplemental: Government of Canada; Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Affairs (RCAP) Chapter 4: Restructuring the Relationship found on-line at Aboriginal Affairs Canada:

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100014597#toc>

**Class 12: Nov. 27 - Conclusion: The Global War on Terror: Challenges and Opportunities for Human Rights in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Required Readings: J. Donnelly, "International Human Rights Since 911: More Continuity Than Change, in Michael Goodhart, (ed.) *Human Rights in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (New York: Palgrave MacMillian) JC 71. H76953

Supplemental: M. Winston, "Why Human Rights will Prevail in the War on Terror" in Michael Goodhart, *Human Rights in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

**Review Class Dec. 4 (Optional) Course Material Review and Exam Preparation**

**\*\* Important University Policy Information**

**Academic Accommodations**

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your

**Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance ([www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**Plagiarism:** The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

**Grades:** Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Connect Email Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email [carletonpss@gmail.com](mailto:carletonpss@gmail.com), visit our website at [poliscisociety.com](http://poliscisociety.com), or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.